Oil Production

2903. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated June 10, 1997 to the effect that there is possibility of serious drop in the level of self-reliance of the country in the field of petroleum during the next five years;

(b) whether the self sufficiency level is likely to drop upto 33 percent by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan of the country;

(c) the expenditure incurred on raising the level of oil production during Eigth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the extent to which the target fixed by the Government has been achieved in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An expenditure of approximately Rs. 32066 crores was incurred on exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the country during the Eighth Plan.

(d) The table given below indicates the targets and production of crude oil in the country during the Eighth Plan.

(Figs. in MMT)

Year	Target	Production
1992-93	28.46	26.95
1993-94	27.17	27.026
1994-95	32.29	32.239
1995-96	36.296	35.147
1996-97	36.312	32.881*

*Provisional

[English]

Expenditure of Litigation, I.T.D.C.

2904. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on litigation of ITDC during the last three years;

(b) whether the expenditure have come down as compared to the previous years;

(c) whether ITDC follows the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959 regarding admissible Fees to Advocates in the matter of litigation;

(d) whether there is any proposal to revamp the legal cell of ITDC; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to improve the image of Legal Department of ITDC ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The details of expenditure incurred on litigation are given below :

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in Lakh)
1994-95	10.53
1995-96	16.30
1996-97	17.25 (Prov.)

The expenditure has marginally increased during 1996-97 over previous year.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Companies (Court) Rules, 1959 are applicable to ITDC. However, these rules do not specifically provide for payment of fee to Advocates except in the case of Liquidation of the Company.

(d) and (e) Presently, there is no proposal to revamp the Legal Cell. However, the improvement of image is a continous process.

By Pass on National Highway No. 31

2905. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1361 on July 22, 1996 and state :

(a) the percentage of work completed till March 31, 1997 in respect of construction of Felakata to Pundibari Bypass road on National Highway No. 31 and bridge on river Torsha;

(b) whether the work is likely to be completed within the target date i.e. by March, 1998; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The progress of Falakata-Pundibari Bypass on National Highway No. 31 and bridge over river Torsa as on 31st March, 1997 is as under :

Bypass Road	Torsa Bridge
50%	45%

(b) and (c) According to the latest progress of works, the work is rescheduled to be completed by about December, 1998 instead of the earlier target of March, 1998, The reasons for the delay are some contractual problems.

Land to IOC at Paradeep Port

2906. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) had requested his Ministry to sublease the land allotted to it at Paradeep Port in Orissa;

(b) whether the request was made by IOC for developing exclusive oil handling facilities;

(c) if so, the steps taken to consider the request of IOC; and

(d) if not, the view expressed by the Paradeep Port Authority in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation has been allotted 85 acres of land at Paradip Port for installation of their Oil Terminal and Railway Siding away from the Port Operational Area. Sub-leasing the land is not permissible as per the extant policy.

Satellite INSAT

2907. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the clocks being used at Airport have since become obsolete in view of the introduction of Indian Standard Time (IST) through Satellite INSAT by NPL, New Delhi; and

(b) the reasons for not introducting this system of indicating time by the Airport Authority of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) At Airports, Airports Authority of India maintains time on daily basis, with reference to time broadcast by All India Radio/National Physical Laboratory. There is no change in the status of the clocks being used at airports.

Expansion of National Highway 2 and 6

2908. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand National Highway No. 2 and National Highway No. 6 which is crossing over Baharamuri just after Jharagram in West Bengal, turn to Bunkura, Raniganj via Mejia and meet with G.T. Road;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the time by which it will be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Passenger Ship Service To Singapore

2909. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start passenger ship service to Singapore;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether any private companies have shown interest for the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) M/s. IGGI Resort International, Madras, a private shipping company was permitted in August, 1995 to acquire two second hand passenger vessels for operation between India, Malaysia and Singapore. However, the company have not implemented the Government sanction so far. The sanction has also expired.

GT Road, Panipat

2910. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that GT Road passing through Panipat has become quite congested and besides slowing down of the traffic on the highway number of fatal accidents take place;

(b) if so, whether the Government have surveyed the situation on the national highway at Panipat;

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by